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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-05
MCE-00 /111 W
----------130318 251401Z /41
R 251242Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9563
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIETS ON DISARMAMENT
SUMMARY: PRAVDA AND RED STAR OF MARCH 24 CARRY SEVERAL ITEMS ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES, INCLUDING A PRAVDA EDITORIAL. THESE PIECES DO NOT BREAK ANY NEW GROUND AND APPEAR INTENDED LARGELY FOR THE RECORD. THEIR MOST NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION IS TO REITERATE SOVIET REJECTION OF LINKAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE NEUTRON BOMB AND ANY OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. NEUTRON WEAPON. THE VIGOROUS SOVIET PRESS CAMPAIGN ON THIS SUBJECT HAS CONTINUED UNABATED, PRAVDA'S EDITORIAL
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CALLS IT A NEW BARBARIC MEANS FOR THE MASSIVE DESTRUCTION OF PEOPLE" AND CITES IT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE MACHINATIONS OF "AGGRESSIVE FORCES OPPOSING DETENTE" AND OF THE "CRIMINAL PLANS OF AMERICAN AND NATO MILITARISTS." THE EDITORIAL CITES WITH APPROVAL THE SOVIET-SPONSORED RESO-LUTION ON RB ER WEAPONS AT GENEVA. PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT I. MELNIKOV FROM VIENNA SUMMARIZES A STATEMENT BY A SOVIET

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SPOKESMAN AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THERE IN WHICH THE
LATTER REJECTED "EFFORTS TO TIE SOMEHOW" THE NEUTRON
BOMB WITH "OTHER EXTRANEOUS QUESTIONS INCLUDING THOSE
DISCUSSED" AT MBFR. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REPEATED
BREZHNEV S PROPOSAL FOR A MUTUAL RENUNCIATION OF THE
PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS.

2. SALT. GEORGIY YURIEV IN A COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN IN
PRAVDA COVERS FAMILIAR GROUND IN DISCUSSING THE "SHARP
DEBATES" BETWEEN HAWKS AND DOVES IN THE U.S., PARTICU-
LARLY OVER SALT. YURIEV CITES A RECENT REPORT ISSUED
BY SENATOR MCGOVERN, AS WELL AS OTHER STATEMENTS FAVORABLE
TO THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BY SENATORS SPARKMAN
AND PELL AND BY PAUL WARNKE. HE CONCLUDES BY STATING
THAT THE FUTURE WILL SHOW WHETHER "THESE SENSIBLE
JUDGMENTS" WILL PREVAIL IN U.S. POLICY. PRAVDA'S
EDITORIAL RESTRICTS ITSELF ON SALT TO THE STATEMENT THAT
THE USSR ATTRIBUTES "ESPECIAL IMPORTANCE"
TO THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW TREATY ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS
AS WELL AS TO AN MBFR TREATY.

3. MBFR. APART FROM REFERENCES ABOVE, RED STAR CARRIES
AN ARTICLE BY I. MASLOV SUMMARIZING A PRESS CONFERENCE
GIVEN BY THE HEAD OF THE GDR DELEGATION IN VIENNA. LACK
OF PROGRESS IN VIENNA IS BLAMED ON WESTERN EFFORTS TO
GAIN MILITARY ADVANTAGE AND THE NEUTRON BOMB IS RAISED
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ONLY TO REPEAT BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL FOR MUTUAL RENUNCIATION.

4. OTHER ITEMS. PRAVDA'S EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT THE
USSR HAS RAISED OVER 70 ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS IN
RECENT YEARS. APART FROM THOSE ALREADY MENTIONED, IT
LISTS INITIATIVES SUCH AS CTB (WITH A PNE MORATORIUM)
AND GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT MOSCOW INTENDS TO PLAY
A LARGE ROLE IN SSOD. RED STAR ALSO CARRIES AN ARTICLE
BY MAJOR V. SLAVIN ON WESTERN, AND PARTICULARLY U.S.,
ARMS SALES ABROAD. IT IS VERY ROUTINE, EVEN USING THE
EXPRESSION "MERCHANTS OF DEATH, AND MAKES NO REFERENCE
TO THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS TO LIMIT CONVENTIONAL
ARMS TRANSFERS.
5. COMMENT: WE SEE NO NEW MESSAGE IN THIS COLLECTION
OF COMMENTARIES EXCEPT TO REITERATE ALREADY KNOWN SOVIET
THEMES AND TO PRESS MOSCOW'S PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ON
THE NEUTRON WEAPON. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: DISARMAMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
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Draft Date: 25 mar 1978
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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